in Mysore, but that on the other hand forest growth is largely and rapidly extending to the detriment of grazing land. It is stated that the south-west rains penetrated into the maidan districts better and more regularly 60 to 100 years ago. Is it a coincidence that this period coincides with the time when kumri cultivation was extensively practised and vast areas of forest were annually destroyed? In those districts too, vast areas which are now forest were under paddy cultivation. Can it be that the ghat forests check the advance and hold the rain from penetrating inland? Certain it is that the average rainfall on the ghats for the last three decades shows a steady increase. We think, therefore, that the rule as it stands is too sweeping and must interfere seriously with the industry, and we trust that it may be modified.

Reply of Government.—The matter is under consideration and has been referred for investigation to a Committee consisting of the Conservator of Forests, and the Deputy Commissioners of Mysore, Shimoga, Kadur and Hassan, in connection with a general investigation that is being made under the orders of the Government of India, on the influence of the clearance of forests on climate and rain-fall.

SUBJECT No. 119.

Sub-divisions of survey numbers.

Messrs. Mudlagiri Rao, Jagalur Taluk; Y. Rama Rao, Tumkur Municipality; V. Naranappa, Turuvekere Sub-Taluk; and Subba Setty, Hassan Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The prohibition to entertain applications for the sub-division of occupied lands after the revision settlement operates as a hardship on raiyats owning survey numbers of large extent and their hissedars. A minimum may therefore be fixed for the sub-division of occupied lands and applications entertained subject to the payment of prescribed fees. In the absence of such a rule, raiyats are not in a position to dispose of portions of their lands as they like.

The old Revenue Rules permitted the sub-division of survey numbers without limit for the purpose of transfer by sale, gift, and division among co-sharers. For the grant for cultivation, or for sale for arrears of revenue, or for relinquishment, the minima prescribed were in the case of dry lands, 2 acres, wet, ½ acre and garden, ¼ acre. The revised Land Revenue Rules of 1901 raised the minima to acres 6, 2 and 1, respectively. On a representation of the hardship caused by this increase in the minima and the refusal to sub-divide for the purposes of sale, etc., Government revised the scale, which in the case of the Tumkur District is for dry land, 4 acres, wet, 1 acre and garden, ½ acre. It is requested that these limits may be further reduced.

There may be several co-occupants in a holding, though the khate stands in the name of a single individual. The sub-division of lands within the prescribed minima

may be ordered to be effected during the survey on the application of the khatedar or his co-occupants. Such sub-divisions though standing in the khate of another will enable co-occupants and others to get their names separately registered on application to Revenue or Civil Courts.

Reply of Government.—After careful consideration the minima have been recently reduced by Government in their Order No. R. 3366-75—L. R. 590-05-8, dated 29th November 1907. They cannot again be reduced further so soon. As has been explained in Government Order No. R 8139-48—L. R. 351-07-4, dated 13th June 1908, the sub-division of survey numbers cannot be allowed merely to enable a person not possessing the entire interest in a survey number to pay only the kandayam on his share. He can get his interests protected sufficiently by getting his name registered in the Special Notice Register or having his share entered in the khate under Rule 75, if his case falls under it. Sub-division subject to the prescribed minima is freely permitted during the revision survey, and even after it is completed, if it is found that any survey number is of an inconvenient size, the Survey Department will afford the necessary facilities for its sub-division.

SUBJECT No. 120.

Boundary marks for sub-divisions of survey numbers.

Mr. Venkoba Rao, Hole-Narsipur Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—When a portion of a survey number is sub-divided and given out for cultivation, the remaining extent is not marked off by boundary marks. When this portion is applied for and given out for cultivation, disputes arise between the two holders owing to the non-existence of marks defining their lands. Hence all sub-divided portions may be provided with proper boundary marks.

Reply of Government.—Cannot be done.

SUBJECT No. 121.

Substitution of stone bandhs for mud ones as in Madras.

Mr. Lakshminarasimhachar, Chamrajnagar Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—It is prayed that during the Revenue Survey operations, the system obtaining in Madras of substituting stone bandhs for earthen ones may be introduced, as this will prevent disputes between raiyats.

Reply of Government.—The subject was brought forward in 1906, and it was finally decided that the proposal could not be adopted. (*Vide* Subject No. 114 of 1906.)

SUBJECT No. 122.

Reduction of assessment during the re-survey and settlement.

(1) Mr. D. Venkataramaiya, Bangalore City Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—(1) Fluctuating rain-fall, the silting up of tank beds and the erroneous calculation of achkats when compared with the existing capacities of tanks are tending to make agriculture a very precarious means of living in the case of those who do not depend upon ragi cultivation. Except in the cases where lands are watered from river channels and in the case of lands under big tanks, where the water-supply does not fail, the Government may be pleased to enunciate for